



1744
JRW

In Re U.S. Patent Application of _____)

BILSTAD, Arnold C., BUCHANAN, Bradley H.,
MARTTILA, Alan W. and WOODWORTH, Archie)

Application No. 09/970,580

Confirmation No. 2598

Filing Date: October 4, 2001

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
MANIPULATING PRE-STERILIZED
COMPONENTS IN AN ACTIVE STERILE
FIELD

Group Art Unit: 1744

Examiner: Krisanne Marie Jastrzab

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

X Transmitted herewith is an Amendment in the above-identified Application.

X No additional fee is required, as shown below:

					Small Entity			Other Than Small Entity	
	Claims Remaining After Amendment	Highest Number Previously Paid For	Present Extra		Rate	Additional Fee		Rate	Additional Fee
Total	16	- 25	= 0		x \$ 9	-0-		x \$ 18	-0-
Independent	1	- 4	= 0		x \$ 43	-0-		x \$ 86	-0-
First Presentation of Multiple Dependent Claims					x \$145	-0-		x \$290	-0-
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE					\$-0-				

BILSTAD

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-0280.

A duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.

X Any filing fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 for the presentation of extra Claims.

X Any patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 23, 2004

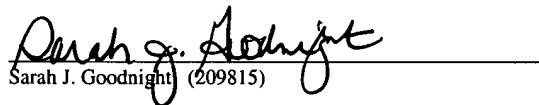
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Date of Deposit: September 23, 2004

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


Sarah J. Goodnight (209815)



Attorney Docket No. DDR-5455-Div (1417Y P 649)

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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AMENDMENT AND REPLY TO JULY 1, 2004
OFFICE ACTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH 37 C.F.R. 1.111

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

DEAR SIR:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed July 1, 2004. A shortened statutory period of three months has been set for response, making this Reply due on October 1, 2004. Therefore, this Reply is considered timely. Reconsideration of the referenced application, including all pending claims, is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and the remarks set forth below.

This Amendment and Reply is being submitted in a form which complies with revised 37 C.F.R. 1.121. Accordingly, all pending claims are identified by number and appropriate status identifier.